REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 11 and 12 are currently pending in this application. Claims 11 and 12 are independent.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to accept the drawings filed on March 16, 2004.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,611,621 ("Shiraiwa"). Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to clarify the present invention as recited. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, on pages 2, 19, and 20, and Figure 1 of the Specification. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention relates to providing a network printer which may adapt to any network environment in which the network printer is able to directly print information resources existing at a certain node without having a computer fetch the information resources and then send the fetched information resources to the network printer. Accordingly, claims 11 and 12 have been amended to specify that the printer is a *network printer* on the same network as that of the node including the information resources. Specifically, a node on a network, including a printer, sends a print acceptance screen. The

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printer included with the node may not be the printer that is to perform actual printing of information. The user inputs on the print acceptance screen a directive to capture information from a peripheral device (*e.g.,* a scanner, as described in the example on pages 19-20 under Embodiment 3 of the Specification), and designates the printer to perform the printing. The client computer then sends a print request, including an acquisition request to both the printer on the node that sent the print acceptance screen and the printer to perform the printing. When the printer on the node receives the print request, it gives the directive to capture information to the peripheral device and the peripheral device sends the captured information to the printer that is to print the information. Thus, the printer receives the captured information directly from the peripheral device and prints the information on a print record medium.

Further, the print acceptance screen includes *three distinct areas* for the user to specify information. The first area is where a user specifies a peripheral device to acquire print data. The second area is for a user to *specify a given condition* when the peripheral device acquires the print data. The given condition may be any condition imposed on the node where the print data exists (*See* Specification, Figure 12 for examples of conditions such as number of colors, pages, mode, etc.). The third area is for a user to designate a printer to print the information.

Shiraiwa, in contrast to the claimed invention, relates to an image processing method for simulating an image output from an image output device (*See* Shiraiwa, Abstract). More specifically, Shiraiwa discloses a color management technique, and does not relate to a network printer, as claimed in amended independent claims 11 and 12. A network is a specific type of environment for a printer, because the printer has access to other components that may be on the same network. Because Shiraiwa does not relate to a network printer and

the functionality of a network printer, it is not possible for Shiraiwa to disclose or suggest the limitations of independent claims 11 and 12, as amended. Specifically, Shiraiwa fails to disclose or suggest a node on a network with a printer that sends a print acceptance screen with three distinct areas for user input, such that another network printer can acquire and print information directly from the node on the network, and not have to download the information to a computer before printing the information.

Further, Shiraiwa fails to disclose the second area of the print acceptance screen for specifying given conditions for the peripheral device to acquire the print data. The Examiner cites the color management method or specification data of Shiraiwa in asserting that Shiraiwa discloses this limitation. However, the color management method indicated by the Examiner is for specifying various parameters in converting input data into output data, and is clearly not a condition by which an input apparatus acquires print data. That is, the information provided by a user using the color management method serves a different purpose than the second area (*i.e.,* D2 in Figure 12 of the present invention) recited in claims 11 and 12. While the claimed invention provides the second area for a user to specify conditions on how the peripheral device is to acquire print data, the color management method and the like disclosed in Shiraiwa is for converting input data to output data, and does not allow for a user to place conditions on *how data is acquired* by a peripheral device.

In view of the above, it is clear that Shiraiwa fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. Thus, amended independent claims 11 and 12 are patentable over Shiraiwa. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783.012002).

Dated: August 19, 2005   Respectfully submitted,
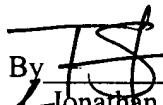
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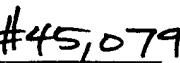
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